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AN: 0790077-0837

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PH-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02 /068 W
-----095212 190559Z /15 DEPARTMENT OF COM

O R 190456Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2266
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L K A B U L 1205

E.O. 120651: GDS 2-18-85 (PLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-N
TAGS: ASEC, PEPR, PINS, AF
SUBJ: (C) FAILURE OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO NOTIFY THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY BEFORE THE ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR DUBS'
CAPTORS

REF: (A) STATE 39728, (B) KABUL 1098

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE EMBASSY NOTED IN HODDING CARTER'S PRESS BRIEFING ON FEBRUARY 15, 1979 (REFTEL A), THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE I NEED TO CORRECT THE RECORD ON SOMETHING THAT I SAID YESTERDAY WHICH I FIRMLY BELIEVED TO BE TRUE, BUT IT WAS NOT. THE SENTENCE WAS: WE DID NOT HAVE, NOR DID WE HAVE ANY ADVANCE NOTICE FROM THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEY INTENDED TO RUSH THE HOTEL ROOM IN THE HOTEL KABUL. FOR THE RECORD, WE SHOULD SAY THAT OUR EMBASSY IN KABUL WAS GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE AFGHAN INTENTION TO STORM THE ROOM IN WHICH AMBASSADOR DUBS WAS BEING HELD. DURING THIS TIME, BETWEEN THE TIME OF THAT NOTIFICATION AND PRIOR TO THE RUSH, SECRETARY VANCE PERSONALLY ORDERED THE EMBASSY TO COMMUNICATE TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OUR DEEP CONCERN

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OVER THIS INTENTION. HE AGAIN REQUESTED IN THE STRONGEST

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TERMS, THAT NO SUCH ACTION BE TAKEN. END QUOTE.

3. THE ABOVE STATEMENT APPEARS TO IMPLY THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY OF ITS INTENTION TO STORM THE ROOM. THIS IS NOT CORRECT. AT NO TIME WAS ANYONE AT THE EMBASSY APPRAISED BY OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THAT AN ATTACK WAS IMMINENT. EMBASSY OFFICERS AT THE HOTEL KABUL, OBSERVING THE ACTIONS OF AFGHAN POLICE AND SOVIET ADVISORS ON THE SCENE, REALIZED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO RUSH THE ROOM, AND REPORTED THIS FACT BY RADIO TO THE EMBASSY. (SEE REFTEL B, PARAGRAPHS 12, 13, 19). OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PROVIDED US WITH NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTENTIONS OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, AND, IN THE CASES OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AMIN AND POLICE COMMANDANT TAROON, (IN THE LAST HOUR), WERE UNAVAILABLE TO MEET WITH OR TALK WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN SPITE OF REPEATED REQUESTS. (SEE REFTEL B, PARAGRAPHS 19, 24, AND 31.)
AMSTUTZ

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